

Finally, I'd like to again extend my gratitude to the thousands of volunteer poll workers in central and southwest Iowa who stepped up to serve their communities and our democracy. They have performed an essential civic duty to ensure their neighbors could safely participate in record numbers, and they did so while dealing with a global pandemic. Their efforts and dedication are a true reflection of Iowa values, and I'm proud to name them Iowans of the Week.

2020 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE RECIPIENT THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, today, December 10th, International Human Rights Day, at 7:00 AM Eastern Time, the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded in Oslo, Norway to the World Food Program (WFP) for its outstanding humanitarian work to feed the world's hungriest and most vulnerable people.

The World Food Program is the largest humanitarian organization addressing hunger and promoting food security internationally, providing aid to nearly 100 million people in 88 countries last year alone.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began wreaking havoc on people's lives, livelihoods and economic security, WFP has redoubled its efforts to address global hunger and failing food systems. Last month, WFP executive director David Beasley warned of the potential for famine of Biblical proportions if the world failed to provide support now to the those currently made most vulnerable by the pandemic and its associated economic shocks, climate change, natural disaster, war and conflict.

I have had the privilege of seeing WFP operations up close and personal in various regions of the world. I was in eastern Chad on the border of Sudan visiting Sudanese refugee camps in 2007 when Janjaweed militias crossed the border and attacked two villages. WFP and many humanitarian aid groups swung into immediate action, providing safety, food, water and emergency medical care to hundreds of villagers made homeless in hours.

In Colombia, I've seen WFP provide nourishing meals in schools for the children of families internally displaced by violence. And in Ethiopia I visited health centers serving individuals and families ravaged by HIV/AIDS that could provide food for their patients thanks to WFP and its local partners.

In the wars in Syria, Yemen, Sudan and South Sudan, the deliveries of food and related services provided by WFP are often the only source of nourishment for civilian populations trapped in conflict zones, forcibly displaced inside their countries, or forced to flee to neighboring nations for safety.

I am very proud that the United States is the largest donor to WFP operations world-wide, and that USDA, USAID and our own Food for Peace Program are among WFP's most reliable and effective partners. The U.S. provides food grown by America's own farmers, ready-to-eat meals, cash assistance, support for school feeding programs, and nutritious food products tailored for the very young and espe-

cially for infants and young children suffering from malnutrition and undernutrition.

Many of us cannot imagine the range and scale of WFP's global mission. It includes 17,000 staff worldwide, works in some 80 countries, and has more than 20 ships, 90 planes, and 5,600 trucks on the move on any given day. It certainly has some of the most generous and dedicated local staff that I have ever met and works with a broad range of local, national and international NGOs and partners to combat global hunger and food insecurity.

I will never forget those days when I have been with WFP in the field. I give my warmest congratulations to David Beasley, and the extraordinary local and international WFP staff, for being awarded the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize. May they carry on their noble mission until the day comes when no child, no man or woman goes to bed hungry and every household in the world is secure in the knowledge that there will always be food on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I was unfortunately prevented from traveling and unable to make votes on December 9, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 8900 and H.R. 5758.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JOINT CENTER FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STUDIES

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Founded and chartered in 1970 as the first of its kind, the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies has since served as America's chief Black think tank inside the beltway. Though diverse in their research and advocacy, the Joint Center has remained a consistent presence in the application and advancement of empirical-based policies supporting strategies to advance Black America.

Madam Speaker, it is common that any resolution addressing the disproportionate impact of a policy on the Black community introduced in this chamber cites a study conducted by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. Even I, along with countless Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) colleagues have referenced their reports when legislating and communicating with my constituents. The Joint Center plays a critical role in keeping our leaders properly informed and educated on the issues that Black Americans face daily.

Just last year, the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies was credited for several efforts to achieve diversity in the workforce. Among them include bringing increased

awareness to congressional staff diversity, culminating with the establishment of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion in the U.S. House of Representatives; encouraging companies to consider the future of their work through a racial equity lens, resulting in companies like McKinsey & Company. Another example of the fruition of their work would be The Atlantic and the National Skills Coalition releasing, 'The Future of Work' reports and hosting listening sessions. Over the last five decades, they have successfully convened leaders of major cities to discuss workforce modernization in Black communities.

The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies' work is more relevant and necessary now than ever before. In the face of a crisis disproportionately affecting Black Americans' health outcomes and economic security encompassed by a global pandemic, we must push for a national agenda with viable solutions that address the systemic racism that prompted these inequities.

Madam Speaker, as we celebrate the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies for their successes over the years, let us also reaffirm our commitment as a body to working alongside them and others to advance noble ideas and policies that promote the Black community.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT PUBLIC TRANSIT IS A NATIONAL PRIORITY WHICH REQUIRES FUNDING EQUAL TO THE LEVEL OF HIGHWAY FUNDING

HON. JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution declaring that public transit is a national priority which requires funding equal to the level of highway funding along with my colleagues HAKEEM JEFFRIES from New York and AYANNA PRESSLEY from Massachusetts.

Joining us in this introduction are 30 other members from across the country and dozens of organizations invested in ensuring we build a more just, equitable, and sustainable transportation system in America.

The near 40-year precedent of an "80-20" split between highway and transit funding does not reflect our citizens, businesses, and communities' needs for safe, reliable, and convenient public transportation. The split underfunds transit needs leaving too many reliant on deteriorating transit systems with infrequent, inconvenient, and unreliable service.

The 80-20 split was agreed to in 1982, when 1 cent of a 5 cent gas tax increase was dedicated to transit. But since 2008, over \$144 billion in taxpayer dollars have supplemented gas tax revenues for highway and transit spending. The user fee is not working as intended, yet the 80-20 funding split persists.

Transit is an essential lifeline for the over one million rural households without a car and millions of Americans of color disproportionately reliant on public transit. 2.8 million essential workers and millions more rely on transit to access their jobs, food, and health care.

In Chicago, CTA trains and Pace Buses are the arteries of our city and they've kept our